

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia
SUBJECT Food Situation in Czechoslovakia

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1. The 1950 harvest in Czechoslovakia will be very small because of the excessive dryness of the summer; at the present time, it seems probable that the harvest will be only about 60 percent of that expected earlier. Because of this, Czechs are buying all the flour available on the free market, thus causing a scarcity which is already apparent in the stores.
2. Farmers are being punished by heavy fines and imprisonment for fulfilling only to 75 percent their quota for the planting of beets. Large areas of land have gone unplanted by the state-operated farms and by the United Agricultural Cooperatives because of the lack of farmhands.
3. Meat imported from Rumania and the USSR is in some cases of such poor quality that it cannot be processed for use in Czechoslovakia. Domestically produced meat is either exported to the Eastern zone of Germany or is canned for the army. All "free" cattle must be reserved for canning, but since the canneries lack the necessary tin plate, cattle remains on the farms or in the agricultural cooperatives.

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